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B R O M E G R A S S

Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn.
Bromus Inermis

Growing in Popularity
For Permanent Pasture



THE improvement of permanent pastures is recognized as one of our greatest farm problems. In the experiments that have been conducted in the various States through the Northern Corn Belt, Brome Grass (*Bromus Inermis*) is becoming recognized as one of the most valuable grasses for permanent pastures in this area.

BROME GRASS -BROMUS INE

Brome Grass is a long lived perennial originally introduced from Russia, which will grow well on any fertile soil such as Blue Grass, Timothy and other Grasses require. While ordinarily not grown for hay purposes it does compare favorably with Timothy in the yield and quality of hay.

However, as a pasture grass either alone or in combination, it has the following outstanding qualities:

1. It is palatable to all classes of livestock.
2. It is extremely hardy and drought resistant.
3. It is one of the most productive of perennial grasses, starting early in the Spring and continuing succulent until late in the Fall.
4. It remains green and palatable through mid-summer when most other pasture grasses are in a rest or dormant period. A permanent pasture with Bromus does away with the necessity of an expensive emergency pasture for this mid-summer period.
5. It does not have to be pastured closely. In fact, it does better when the growth is allowed to become rank, and the rank growth continues palatable even to fairly advanced stages of maturity.

SEEDING and CULTIVATION

Bromus can be seeded either in the Spring or Fall depending on seasonal conditions. It requires a moist, fine, thoroughly compact seed bed relatively free from weeds. When Bromus is seeded alone the use of 20 pounds of seed per acre is recommended, and the seeding should be shallow—never over $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch except pos-

ERMIS - For Permanent Pastures

sibly in sandy soil. The use of a roller or cultipacker both before and after seeding is desirable. Bromus can be broadcast although drilling is to be preferred, and the use of a peck or two of Oats per acre with the Brome will help the feeding through the drill. When Oats are used, however, they should never to be allowed to mature, but should be cut and removed early. Brome Grass starts slowly and spreads by underground root stalks. If weeds are prevalent as the Brome Grass is becoming established they should be kept clipped.

Because it spreads by the underground root system, it may take from two to three years to secure a good uniform stand, and in time there is a tendency for Brome Grass by itself to become sod-bound. This condition can be corrected usually by heavy disking, applications of manure and with the growing of legumes.

BROMUS IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER GRASSES

Because of slow starting and the tendency to become sod-bound, there is increasing interest in using Bromus in combination with other grasses or legumes.

Probably the most successful combination found to date is Alfalfa and Brome, using Alfalfa at the rate of 8 pounds per acre with the Bromus at the rate of 6 or 7 pounds to the acre.

This combination has the advantage that Alfalfa is the best of the Legume forages, and this combination is particularly good for the production of pasturage during the heat and drought of Summer when other permanent pastures become dormant and yield little green forage.

CRESTED WHEAT GRASS

A Perennial Pasture Grass

Crested Wheat Grass is another hardy, drought resistant perennial grass introduced from Russia. It is different from Bromus because it does not spread by underground root stalks but is a bunch grass.

Crested Wheat Grass has the ability to grow at extremely low temperatures and is particularly adapted to the Northern Great Plains where temperatures are severe and moisture supplies limited. It starts a little earlier than Bromus and continues a little later in the Fall, but it does become dormant during the hot, dry mid-summer period and for that reason it is desirable to use it as a pasture grass in mixtures or in combination with other grasses and legumes.

Crested Wheat Grass Hay is very palatable to all classes of livestock, particularly horses.

Experiments up to date would indicate that where there are 18 inches or more of rainfall properly distributed Bromus Grass will probably do better than Crested Wheat Grass.

Crested Wheat Grass needs the same seed bed and soil conditions as Bromus and can be planted either in the Spring or Fall. Because it is a bunch grass it can be sown in close drills. The seeding rate in close drills is 10 to 12 pounds per acre.

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